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# HUMBLE SUBMISSION TO DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY THE DUTY OF A BEREAVED NATION.

# A SERMON,

OCCASIONED BY THE DEATH OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

## General George Washington,

LATE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMIES, AND FORMERLY PRESIDENT, OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PREACHED IN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH-CAROLINA, ON THE 22D OF FEBRUARY, 1800, BEFORE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SOCIETY, THE STATE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI, AND A NUMEROUS ASSEMBLAGE OF CITIZENS.

BY RICHARD FURMAN, A. M.

PASTOR OF THE SAID CHURCH, AND A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SOCIETY.

Originally delivered, and now published, at the joint request of the two Societies.

Shall not the Judge of all the Earth do right? *Gen.* xviii. 25.

The Memory of the Just is blessed. *Prov.* x. 7.

*CHARLESTON:*

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M.DCCC.

BRITISH MUSEUM

*To the Honorable Brigadier-General* ARNOLDUS VANDERHORST, *Preſident, and the other Members of the American Revolution Society, in South-Carolina*;

*And to the Honorable Major-General* MOULTRIE, *Preſident, and the other Members of the State Society of the Cincinnati,*

*THE following Diſcourſe, preached and publiſhed at their requeſt, is, with profound reſpect for their perſons, ſincere attachment to the cauſe which they, as ſocieties, ſupport, and the utmoſt veneration for the character of the illuſtrious Perſon, by whoſe death it was occaſioned, humbly inſcribed,*

*By their*

*Sincere Friend,*

*And devoted Servant*

*In the Goſpel,*

CHARLESTON,
March 1ſt, 1800,

RICHARD FURMAN.

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# SERMON, etc.

## PSALM xxxix, 9.

"*I was dumb, I opened not my mouth, becauſe thou didſt it.*"

THE great ſoul of our beloved Waſhington, has left the world.—Accounts, not to be diſputed, have announced his death.—It is an event long to be remembered by Americans.—The melancholy tidings have vibrated on our ears, in ſaddeſt accents; they have penetrated our hearts, exciting ſenſations not to be deſcribed; and have produced, in copious effuſion, ſincere, but unavailing tears.—On this day, the anniverſary of that which gave him to his country and to mankind—the day, which, in honor of his virtues, you were uſed to devote to feſtivity and joy; we are met, for the firſt time, in the houſe of God, to deplore our loſs of him;—to weep over his urn; and to collect ſuch inſtructions from his death, as the ſolemn event is ſuited

to inſpire. This obſervance of the day was firſt the voluntary choice of the reſpectable ſocieties, I have the honor to addreſs, at whoſe command I appear in this affecting, public ſervice; but the Repreſentatives and Firſt Magiſtrate of the nation, influenced by the ſame ſentiments of gratitude, love, and reſpect for the deceaſed Hero, Stateſman, and Patriot, have added their ſanction, by recommending ſuch obſervance of it to the citizens at large.

With the millions of America, therefore, we unite in paying an affectionate tribute of reſpect to the memory of this firſt of Americans;—this friend of religion, of liberty, and of man.

To aſſiſt us in the pious intentions and duties of the day, the text under conſideration has been ſelected. For this purpoſe it appears ſtrictly appropriate, and furniſhes excellent inſtruction.

It preſents to our view, a great and good man, ſuffering ſome diſtreſſing bereavement, or heavy affliction from the hand of God.—Feeling the keeneſt ſenſibility, and a ſtruggling of all the tender or violent paſſions of his ſoul, he is prompted to murmur, or bewail his loſs in ſtrains of hopeleſs grief.—But turning his eyes toward Heaven, viewing the majeſty of God, the wiſdom of his counſels, the righteouſneſs of his government, the perfections of his nature, and, eſpecially, his tranſcendent goodneſs and mercy, he is awed into ſilence;—he ſtills the commotion of his breaſt, with arguments derived from theſe ſources; and reſigns himſelf to the ſovereign pleaſure of his God; liſtening with profound attention, to the impoſing dictates of the heavenly mandate:—

mandate:—To the voice of Providence, which ſpeaks to man in afflicting diſpenſations.—Conſcious of the ſincerity of his heart, and the uprightneſs of his intentions; and at the ſame time, no doubt, exerciſing an humble affiance in the divine faithfulneſs, compaſſion, and protection, he expreſſes his ſentiments, and recounts his conduct, in a direct, devotional addreſs to the Deity: "I was dumb, I opened not my mouth, becauſe *thou* didſt it."

The ſeveral important doctrines ſuggeſted in the text, if taken into conſideration and treated abſtractly, would be found worthy of our moſt ſerious attention; but this our time, and other exiſting circumſtances, will not admit. I ſhall therefore unite doctrinal diſcuſſion of the ſubject, with its application to that mournful event, we this day recogniſe and lament.

In the execution of this deſign, let us conſider, the greatneſs of the loſs and affliction we have ſuſtained, in the death of the illuſtrious General, and late Preſident, Waſhington;

Adduce the reaſons which require our reſignation, and ſubmiſſion to the Divine will, ſo manifeſted; And,

Point out the proper method of improving the important, mournful event.

The firſt intention has its accompliſhment in our taking a juſt view of the character, ſervices, and influence of this great man; and of the preſent ſtate of our country.

The character of the General is ſo conſpicuous in the American hiſtory, where his great actions are recorded;—has been preſented to our view

in ſuch a variety of engaging forms, in tranſactions intimately connected with our firſt intereſts and tendereſt feelings; and has, juſtly, been ſo often the ſubject of eulogy, that it is not neceſſary we ſhould enter into a particular inveſtigation: and were we to attempt it, the limits of a volume would be found too confined.—Where alſo ſhould we find the Raphael-hand that could draw it to the life, and preſent it to our view in all its pleaſing attitudes and glowing colours?

Leaving, therefore, this arduous ſervice to a maſter's hand, we ſhall only attempt a ſketch.

In treating of his character, we muſt briefly touch on his hiſtory.

General George Waſhington was the third ſon of an opulent gentleman of Virginia, who traced his deſcent from the eldeſt of two brothers of the name, who had migrated to that country from York or Lancaſhire, in Great Britain, about the year 1660. They were men of property when they left their native land, and ſecured to themſelves, as ſettlers in this, the uſual advantages attendant on wealth and reſpectability of character; which both themſelves and deſcendants appear to have uniformly poſſeſſed.

The General was born on the eleventh day of February, old ſtile, in the year 1732. While very young, he began to manifeſt that greatneſs of mind, and excellency of diſpoſition, which have ſince ſhone ſo conſpicuouſly in his character. His companions at ſchool have declared, that they never diſcovered in him any profanity in language, or indecency of behaviour; and

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that they often ſuffered reproof, from their parents or guardians, by the compariſon which was drawn between his conduct and theirs.

Though he did not enjoy the advantages of a collegiate education, yet, he was furniſhed, under a competent tutor, with an opportunity of gaining acquaintance with claſſical learning. But ſo ſtrong was his inclination for the mathematicks, that his genius could not be long confined to the ſtudy of the dead languages. In mathematical ſcience he was ſaid to have made conſiderable progreſs; as well as in whatever belongs, in general, to an Engliſh education. That logick and oratory muſt in ſome early part of his life, have engaged his ſerious attention, is very naturally concluded, from the claſſical purity and elegance of his ſtile; and from the clear, conciſe, and nervous manner of his reaſoning.

A reſpectable teſtimony has been given to his improvement in ſcience, by the emulation with which ſeveral of the moſt eminent American ſeminaries conferred on him their literary honors.

When he began his military career we are not quite certain; as the hiſtorical accounts and other ſources of information which have been conſulted, reſpecting this and ſome other conſequent tranſactions of his life, are not ſo particular as could be wiſhed. By ſome accounts, it is ſaid he had acted as an adjutant; and by others, that he raiſed a company of volunteers in the capacity of captain, for the defence of the Virginia frontiers. In either of theſe caſes, and both are probable, he muſt

have

have entered on military ſervice when very young, and made rapid advances; for we find him with the rank of major at the age of 21, when, in the year 1753, he was ſent by governor Dinwiddie to negociate with the French commandant on the Ohio. In the following year, he diſtinguiſhed himſelf as colonel commandant on the Ohio ſtation, by the total defeat of a party of French ſent to diſlodge him; and by his ſubſequent defence of the unfiniſhed fort Neceſſity, againſt a force vaſtly ſuperior to his own. In the year 1755 he was preſent at the battle of Monongahela, and acted as aid to general Braddock. Had his prudent advice and courageous offer been accepted by that haughty, confident commander, it is probable the fatal and ſhameful defeat of the day would have been prevented: and had not his courage and conduct, at the head of the provincial troops, interpoſed, after the fall of Braddock, the remainder of the Britiſh regulars muſt have been cut to pieces.

Having thus eſtabliſhed, in early life, an exalted character for courage, prudence, patriotiſm, and wiſdom, mature beyond his years, he retired at, or before, the peace of 1763, from military employments; at leaſt, from the regular ſervice; but was generally, if not always, a repreſentative of the people in the provincial aſſembly. In this ſtation, the principles of liberty, of government, and of general law, muſt have ſeriouſly employed his mind.—By this previous acquaintance with both military affairs and legiſlation, Divine Providence gradually prepared him for thoſe high ſtations which he afterwards filled:—

ed :—for the important part he acted in the revolutionary war, and in the eſtabliſhment, organization and government of theſe United States.

The ſtate of Virginia, ſenſible of his abilities and worth, appointed him one of that band of worthies, which compoſed the congreſs of '74; and on the 15th of June 1775, congreſs appointed him commander in chief of the American armies.

Under his conduct they ſupported, amid manifold diſadvantages, an arduous and ſucceſsful oppoſition, during an eight years war, againſt the ſuperior force of Britiſh and auxiliary veterans, headed by their ableſt generals. By him they were conducted to victory and renown.

Having finiſhed the defenſive, revolutionary war, which terminated in the acknowledged independence, freedom, and peace of his country, he voluntarily reſigned his commiſſion, on the the 23d of July, 1783, into the hands from which he received it; and retired, covered with glory, to the peaceful ſhades of private life.

But within the compaſs of four years, the exigencies, and call of his country, again requiring him to engage in national tranſactions; he became a member, and preſident of the convention, which framed the conſtitution of the United States: And on its adoption by the States, was, by the unanimous voice of the citizens, called to the firſt magiſtracy in the union. Having finiſhed the conſtitutional term of his appointment, as Preſident; a ſecond unanimous vote, re-elected him to the ſame important office; and had he not voluntarily retired, a third, or fourth, in all probability,

probability, had this been requiſite, would have continued him in it to the end of his life.

Long worn in the fatigues and dangers of the field, and preſſed with the weighty, complicated cares of government, he muſt, at this time of retirement, have ſighed for repoſe; eſpecially at his advanced ſtage of life, and when all the charms of relative and domeſtic enjoyment united their influence to invite him to his pleaſing home.

His intention and hope therefore, were, no doubt, fully expreſſed in the declaration made to the citizens at large, in his farewell addreſs:—"Of appearing no more in a public character." But once more his country called, and he obeyed. The hoſtile appearance in Europe, reſpecting America:—Threats and inſults, menacing a blow, rouſed all the patriot and ſoldier in his breaſt. He ſpurned the thoughts of eaſe, of indulgence, and, as it were, even the infirmities of age, when the honor and ſafety of his country required exertion! —Again he accepted the command of the American forces; again he appeared terrible in arms!

In the cares, rather than the dangers, of this new appointment (for the laſt were not permitted,) he ſuffered, at the high diſpoſal of all-ruling Heaven, the arreſt of death, on the 14th of December, 1799.—With manly fortitude he met the awful ſummons; and in the 68th year of his age, complacently ſurrendered his ſoul into the hands of his Creator and his God.

By a regular view of his character, we ſhall diſcover in him, a man endowed with ſuperior gifts of nature—a great general—an able ſtateſman, and juſt magiſtrate—a *true* patriot—a man of exalted virtues, and religion. The

The firmneſs and vigor of his conſtitution, the manly, dignified appearance of his perſon, the comprehenſion of his mind, the correctneſs of his judgment, and his perſuaſive powers in eloquence, or written addreſſes, were at once happy and honorable to himſelf, and eminently uſeful to mankind.

He poſſeſſed, in an eminent degree, the qualities of a great general;—wiſdom and foreſight in forming his plans; promptneſs and courage in the execution. Impenetrable ſecrecy watched over his military councils; prudence and quick diſcernment directed his choice and confidence in agents. The influence he exerted over an heterogeneous body of raw, inexperienced ſoldiers, of which his army generally conſiſted, ſo as to unite and inſpire them with patience and fortitude, under all the wants and diſadvantages they ſuffered; and to face with courage the enemy, ſuperior in numbers, diſcipline, and the means of war, whenever a proper occaſion offered, was truly admirable. Add to this, his ſkillful manœuvring, ſo as to deceive, delay, or elude the foe; and the command he maintained over himſelf. In dangers and ſufferings he was not unreaſonably depreſſed; in victory not arrogant, vainly elated, or ſecure. He was the eye, the ear, the heart, the ſoul of the army: Ever attentive, ever watchful:—Alive to the wants and ſufferings of the ſoldiers; but reſolute to reſtrain their irregularities and check their inſolence.—As a general, he was honored by the great Frederick.

He gave an earneſt of his great abilities as a

ſtateſman, by firſt ſuggeſting the idea of a federal government, in the circular letter he addreſſed to the governors of the different ſtates, at the cloſe of the war: And he eminently diſplayed them, during his eight years adminiſtration, as Preſident of the United States.

They appear by his recommendations to the national legiſlature; by the prudent uſe he made of the power lodged in his own hands; by his appointments to office; and by his ſuppreſſion of inſurrection. But the higheſt honor is done to his character as a ſtateſman, by his placing this country in a ſtate of neutrality, when the flames of war were kindling in Europe; by the effectual meaſures he took to counteract the attempts of thoſe who would have drawn or plunged us into them; and by the excellent maxims and counſels of his farewell addreſs.

So juſt was his adminiſtration, that he might, with the greateſt propriety, have addreſſed the citizens of the United States, in the language of Samuel, the Prophet and Judge of Iſrael: "Whoſe ox have I taken; whoſe aſs have I taken; whom have I defrauded; or whom have I oppreſſed?"

But to his country he was *more* than juſt:—He was the true, the generous patriot. For her welfare he conſecrated the ſervices of his early youth, of his manly prime, and of his declining years. For the arduous ſervices of commander in chief of the armies, and preſident of the United States, during a term of near twenty years, he received no pecuniary compenſation: His generous ſoul refuſed it! He ſought no rewards but

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the rewards of virtue! He laboured, only to render his country free, independent, and happy!—What opportunities had he at the head of the army, for amaſſing wealth, had this been his object? And what rewards might he not have received had he yielded, like the traitor Arnold, to the overtures which propoſed his betraying the cauſe of liberty?

His conduct uniformly juſtified the declaration he made on his appointment as general, that "in aſſuming the character of a ſoldier, he did not relinquiſh that of a citizen." That unremitted care he exerciſed to preſerve the military, in due ſubordination to the civil power, reflects the higheſt honor on his public character; and proves the genuineneſs of his patriotiſm.—He might, like Cromwell and others, have ſurrounded the legiſlature with armed men; have obtruded on their deliberations to awe them with his preſence; and, to effect the purpoſes of ambition, have amuſed the people with the cry of liberty and republicaniſm. But ſo far was he from adopting ſuch meaſures; that when by deſigning men, through the medium of the army's wants, rebellion and violence were excited, and were ready to burſt forth with deſtructive fury; he, to his immortal honor, riſked all his popularity with the ſoldiers and their love of him; exerted all his eloquence and influence; interpoſed his authority, and—prevented the evil. It was his intention that his country ſhould be *really* free, and that the ſource of power ſhould be preſerved pure. He well knew, that when ſoldiers dictate to a ſtate, her liberties are gone.

The conduct he obſerved toward the Britiſh admiral, Lord Howe, and the adjutant-general Patterſon; and to the French ambaſſador, Genet, ſhows, that however he would patiently bear *perſonal* injuries, or in a dignified manner overlook ſlights of a *private* nature, he would ſuffer none which affected the honor of his *country*. His concern for her honor, and happineſs, extended to future ages—hence that valuable legacy, his farewell addreſs.

So much has been already ſaid of his virtues (and muſt be ſaid when his character is the theme) that it is only neceſſary to enumerate ſome of the chief of that bright aſſemblage which appeared in him. His temperance, candor, courage, moderation, modeſty, juſtice, humanity, magnanimity, benevolence, and generoſity, ſhone forth through the whole circle of his public and private life.—The tears ſhed over André, whom political juſtice and the laws of war ſuffered not to live, and his concern for Aſgil, ſhew his humanity in an amiable light, having in them even an enemy for its object. His generoſity to his country extended to the expenditure of money in her cauſe, as well as to his free perſonal ſervices.—Shares in the canals of Virginia to a conſiderable amount, which that ſtate preſented to him under impreſſions of gratitude and reſpect, were by him appropriated to the important uſe of educating the American youth.—Beſides this, he gave, yearly, a liberal ſum, from his own fortune, for the ſupport of a ſchool in Alexandria; and by his will the benefaction is rendered permanent.—Of his hoſpitality and kindneſs many were partakers.—His eminently poſſeſſing the

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relative, domeſtic, and ſocial virtues was ſtrongly evidenced by ſighs and tears in the late moving ſcene which was exhibited at Mount Vernon, when his beloved remains, amid his weeping family, friends, and neighbours, were depoſited in the ſilent manſion of the dead.

His modeſty caſt a ſoftening ſhade over all his other virtues. It attended him to the laſt, when his praiſe filled every mouth but his own, and his fame had extended to every part of the civilized world.—Amid all his attainments he retained a ſenſe of the imperfections of human nature; theſe, as a wiſe man, he diſcovered in himſelf: the diſcovery, united with a ſenſe of his obligations to his God, prevented him from becoming vain: and both theſe, as a good man, he was ready to acknowledge.

That the General poſſeſſed a high ſenſe of the importance and excellency of religion, his public declarations on almoſt every occaſion abundantly manifeſted. God's ſuperintending Providence; his ſpecial interpoſition in favor of the juſt and innocent; his attention to the prayers of his ſupplicating people; and the neceſſity of religion, for the ſupport of morality, virtue, and the true intereſts of civil ſociety; are articles which he has fully ſtated in them, and zealouſly ſupported. In the ſtile of genuine devotion, and gratitude, he acknowledged the interpoſition of Heaven in the great events of the revolution, and pledged himſelf to ſupplicate the Almighty in behalf of his country, and of his companions in arms.—With ſuch profeſſions he entered on his offices, of general and preſident; and with ſuch he retired from them. But as no words can ſo well

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expreſs his views, and feelings, as his own; let us hear him on ſome of theſe occaſions.

In his laſt general orders, at the diſbanding of the army, he ſays:—"And being now to conclude theſe his laſt public orders, to take his ultimate leave of the military character, and bid a final adieu to the armies he has ſo long had the honor to command; the commander in chief, can only again offer in their behalf his recommendations to their grateful country, and his prayers to the God of armies.—May ample juſtice be done them here; and may the choiceſt of Heaven's favors both here and hereafter attend thoſe, who under the divine auſpices, have ſecured innumerable bleſſings for others!—With theſe wiſhes, and this benediction, he is about to retire from ſervice.—The curtain of ſeparation will ſoon be drawn—and the military ſcene, with him will be cloſed for ever!"

On delivering his commiſſion to the preſident of congreſs, his words are: "I reſign with ſatisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence, a diffidence in my abilities to accompliſh ſo arduous a taſk; which was ſuperſeded, however, by a conſciouſneſs of the rectitude of our cauſe, the ſupport of the ſupreme power of the union, and the patronage of Heaven.

"The ſucceſsful termination of the war has verified the moſt ſanguine expectations; and my gratitude for the interpoſitions of Providence encreaſes with every review of the momentous conteſt.—I conſider it as an indiſpenſible duty to cloſe this laſt act of my official life, by recommending the intereſts of our deareſt country to

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the protection of Almighty God, and thoſe who have the ſuperintendency of them to his holy keeping!"

Theſe ſentiments are yet more fully expreſſed in the ſuperexcellent ſpeech delivered to congreſs, at his entering into office as preſident; and make a diſtinguiſhed figure in his valedictory addreſs to the American people. To theſe I refer you.——

His regular attendance on divine worſhip, and frequently enjoining an obſervance of it, while in office; the reſpect the miniſters of religion experienced in his company and at his table—and, above all, his ſtrict morality and many virtues, on his own principles ſhowed, that theſe profeſſions were not words of courſe; but the genuine ſentiments of his heart. The whole conſpires to induce the belief, that he was more fully acquainted with the ſublime doctrines of chriſtianity, and their gracious, experimental influence on the heart, than there was occaſion to declare in theſe communications he made to the public.

In a word, he was the friend, the father, the ornament of his country!

His public ſervices, recorded in the page of hiſtory, too numerous, too vaſt to be here deſcribed, we ſhall not now attempt to repeat. But retaining, as he did, the powers of body and mind, in an eminent degree, he was ſtill capable of rendering many more of eſſential importance.—Let us turn our attention to,——

His influence in the nation; and the exiſting circumſtances of our national affairs.

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His virtue was tried—his character was known: His abilities were acknowledged—his exeperience was great: He poſſeſſed the confidence and the love of his country. He was a kind of rallying point to all its citizens who poſſeſſed the leaſt ſhare of virtue; however diverſified in ſentiment. Thoſe who did not approve all his meaſures; yet never for a moment, called in queſtion the uprightneſs of his intentions.—While he lived, all competition for the command of the army was in a manner impoſſible.—An American army was, at all times, ready to follow him in any enterpriſe; to face with him any danger. He was reſpected by our friends;—he was formidable to our enemies.

Unhappily for America, at this time, when it has pleaſed the great Arbiter of heaven and earth to call him hence; union in principles and public meaſures, though greater than at a former period, is not ſo complete as it ought to be. War ſtill deluges the nations of Europe in blood. Our differences with one of the moſt potent are not yet adjuſted;—and the rival powers, at variance, are endeavouring to gain an aſcendency in our councils; or to awe us into compliance with their wiſhes and intereſts. At this eventful period,—while the dark clouds of political commotion ſtill hover in our eaſtern and ſouthern horizon, portending a ſtorm; and while it remains uncertain, whether our ſtate veſſel ſhall have to contend with the conflicting elements, or be anchored ſafe in the haven of peace; our ableſt pilot is ſnatched from the helm!—While the alarm of war is ſtill ſounding; the chariot

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and horſemen of our American Iſrael has taken his upward flight!—The loſs is great; it is ſenſibly felt by all. The venerable preſident, the congreſs, the public miniſters, the army, the ſeminaries of learning, the churches and miniſters of Chriſt, the people of the United States at large, acknowledge it, and mourn.

But let us now conſider the reaſons which require our ſubmiſſion to the divine will, manifeſted in this event.

A forcible one occurs at firſt view: It is the act of God:—Of him, who has a ſovereign right and propriety in, and over all worlds, and all their inhabitants:—Of him whoſe goodneſs is infinite.

Had the ruffian hand of an aſſaſſin, or the enemies to liberty, perpetrated, or but attempted, his death; thouſands, I had almoſt ſaid, millions, of ſwords would have been drawn by patriotic Americans, and in their hands have flamed for vengeance. But to oppoſe the will of heaven, or murmur at its accompliſhment, is impiety, folly, and madneſs. In the acts of God, unerring wiſdom, united with juſtice and goodneſs, directs all events, both of the moral and natural world.

Waſhington was to America the valuable gift of God: he had a right to reſume his own gift at his pleaſure.

The event we mourn is the common lot of man: "The Fathers, where are they? And the Prophets, do they live for ever?"

To the good man, death is deſirable: It terminates the toils and ſufferings of life; and leads to perfect bliſs—to never-ending joys.

Our beloved patriot had lived to a good old

age. Had he lived much longer, he muſt, according to the common courſe of nature, have ſuffered thoſe infirmities and decays, which impair, if not deſtroy the comfort and uſefulneſs of life; and rob it of reſpectability. Greatneſs in ruins is a mournful ſight: To himſelf, therefore, *this* might be the moſt deſirable time for his departure.

To which we may add, he had for his own honor, and the honor of his country, completed a long courſe of great and dignified actions, without tarniſhing his reputation; in ſuch a manner as to give him full rank, if not precedence, among the great characters of ancient or modern times;—and to make his example uſeful to future ages. Did Greece boaſt of Solon, Ariſtides, Leonidas, Timoleon, Epaminondas, and Aratus? or Rome, of Romulus, the Bruti, Cincinnatus, Fabius, Scipio, the Antonines, or Cato? Does modern Europe glory in her Frederick, Guſtavus Adolphus, Marlborough, Hampden, or Sidney:---as heroes, ſtateſmen, or patriots? It is ſufficient for America that ſhe has had a Waſhington.---Heaven has made him to us both a Moſes and a Joſhua.-- His example will live, though his body returns to its primeval duſt.

The cauſe in which this great man engaged, remains the ſame: and equally, we truſt, the care of heaven. 'Twas the ſpecial favor of God to him, and to his country, which made him ſo eminently virtuous, great, and ſucceſsful.—The genuine and enlarged liberty, both civil and religious, brought about by the revolution, and in connexion with law and juſtice, conſtitutionally eſtabliſhed in theſe United States, are important

objects

objects in God's moral government.---While these are preserved inviolate; and while we acknowledge the interposition of the Deity, supplicate his throne, fear his judgments, render thanks for his mercies, and honor religion by a temper and conduct correspondent to its principles,---as this great patriot and our ancestors have done; and as the body of our citizens, I trust, are disposed to do;—America will remain the object of divine care and favor.---If, therefore, one honored agent is removed, another will be raised up to fill his place; to catch, as it were, his mantle, imbibe his spirit, and stand forth, under God, the guardian of our lives, liberties and laws.---'Twere impiety to repose in any creature, though an Archangel, our ultimate confidence for safety and defence.

We have, indeed, as individuals, been found wanting in our returns of gratitude, for the manifold and excellent blessings conferred on us by Providence. In too many instances we have abused our privileges; and perhaps, in some, have given that honor to the servants, which was due only to their Lord! This may be a reason for their removal;---not out of displeasure to them, nor ultimately to us; but for our humbling:---that we may feel our dependence on God, fear his holy name, and henceforth make his everlasting arm our trust.

This is an affecting consideration. Under conviction of its truth, well may we be dumb with religious awe in the divine presence as penitents: and with silent admiration and gratitude contemplate his goodness, long-suffering, and mercy; by which we are continued in the possession

of ſo many valuable bleſſings; and by which we are encouraged to hope for bleſſings yet to come.

Furniſhed with ſuch powerful reaſons to conſole our grief, and ſilence our repining; let us turn our thoughts to the improvement we ſhould make of this mournful event:

And, in the firſt place, let us learn ſincere and humble reſignation to the ſovereign pleaſure of Almighty God, in this, and every other afflicting diſpenſation of his providence. For this purpoſe, let us bring home to ourſelves the arguments which have been ſuggeſted, reſpecting the character and prerogatives of Deity; the frailty, dependence, duty, and intereſts of man; eſpecially thoſe arguments which immediately apply to the death of our departed friend. Thus let us moderate our grief and make it uſeful. Not to be affected on this occaſion, would argue want of ſenſibility—want of virtue: But to ſet bounds to our grief, and turn its tide into a proper channel, is the work of reaſon and religion.

The great events and happy conſequences of the revolution, in which General Waſhington acted ſo diſtinguiſhed a part, are ſo inſeparably connected with his hiſtory and character; that a review of the latter neceſſarily brings the former before us in all their importance and excellency. By beholding them in this connexion, our love and veneration are encreaſed to the excellent man, who was honored by heaven as the mean of ſo much good to his country: And we are conſtrained to offer our tribute of gratitude and praiſe to God for the gift of ſo valuable a citizen; —To thank him, alſo, that the excellent Waſhington was continued to us ſo long, to guard the

liberties,

liberties, his conduct and valor won;—to guide our councils, by his wiſdom; and, by his bright example, to teach us virtue.

Let his grateful country honor his memory. Let her citizens recount the inſtances of his generoſity and patriotiſm;—his heroic deeds, his toils, his dangers, and his triumphs!—This I am confident they are diſpoſed to do: And that among all deſcriptions of them, none will be found more forward and active therein, than the honorable ſocieties I this day addreſs.—A ſociety formed by the officers of that patriotic army, which fought the battles of the glorious revolutionary war, under his conduct; to whom he ſtood in the honorable and near relation of Preſident General;—and another, compoſed of the moſt enlightened and reſpectable citizens, who have united for the expreſs purpoſe of perpetuating the events, the principles, and the ſpirit of the revolution; can never be indifferent to the memory of Waſhington.

No, much reſpected members of theſe ſocieties, you cannot, you will not ſuffer his virtues and achievements to be obliterated!—And that you, my Chriſtian brethren and fellow-citizens, of every deſcription, will not withhold the grateful tribute of reſpect, your ſerious attendance on this occaſion is both an evidence and earneſt.—You will recollect, his ſleepleſs nights, and days of care; when he watched for the ſafety of his army, and for the freedom of his country: how, in dangers and diſtreſs, he ſtood collected, with undaunted courage; relying on the aid of heaven.—With refined pleature you will recount, what my feeble voice cannot deſcribe,

how

how he moved ſublime before his martial bands, darting his experienced eye through the long ranks of war, leading them to victory!—How he drove Britain's warlike hoſts from Boſton!—How, with his little patriotic army, when the cauſe of liberty appeared almoſt expiring, he croſſed the Delaware, through the darkneſs, cold, and ſtorm; and, like the thunder of heaven, burſt on the numerous, ſecure, and nearly triumphant foe, at Trenton; withering their ſtrength and proſtrating their confidence!—At York Town you will behold him, receiving with dignity the ſurrender of a powerful army; and the laurels of the Britiſh Hannibal fading in his preſence.—You will follow him, to that auguſt interview with congreſs, when he reſigned his military command; to the place where, in the view of liſtening and admiring thouſands, he received the inveſtiture of his office, as Preſident!—Through the various walks of public and private life you will purſue him with your mental eye; witneſſing his philanthropy, juſtice, magnanimity, and piety—and then, will ſay: "This is the man, who has merited from his country, the firſt degree of love, reſpect, and veneration, that is due to mortals."

Intimately connected with the reſpect due to his memory, is the ſacred duty of preſerving inviolate thoſe rights and privileges; thoſe ineſtimable liberties, civil and religious, for which he fought and laboured. Let it not be ſaid, that after his death, Americans have become indifferent to that cauſe which lay ſo near his heart; on his labours in which heaven ſo propitiouſly ſmiled—That cauſe which is ſo eſſential to our preſent happineſs, and as favorable to our future hopes—

That

That cauſe which is intimately connected with the honor of God, and the intereſts of the Redeemer's kingdom. Let us then feel for the intereſts of our country, and of mankind, as our departed patriot did; and like him, ſet our faces in a determined manner againſt tyranny and oppreſſion; ſelfiſh intereſt and faction; diſſipation and folly; infidelity, vice, and immorality in all their various forms.—Let us cultivate the maſculine, as well as mild virtues, and all that dignifies the man.

Theſe his example recommends to us. An example of virtue, in a high ſtation, reſembles the ſun in the firmament; unveiling his glories to every eye, and ſhedding his beams on all around. Such was his.—It not only commands our reſpect; but invites our imitation. It proves alſo what great things are attainable, and may be expected, by thoſe who ſincerely engage, and ſtrenuouſly perſevere in virtuous purſuits.

This example will teach the ſenator wiſdom, the ſtateſman juſtice and magnanimity; the patriot generoſity, the ſoldier heroiſm, and the citizen, virtue. It will ſhow to our approving underſtanding and conſcience, that the foundation of every truly great character is laid in perſonal virtue, and a ſincere regard to religion. So true are the words of the Poet:

> " Who errs in private never can act well.
> " Nor honor, faith, nor truth to ſuch belong.—
> " Who can be right, whoſe life is in the wrong?

To the riſing generation, eſpecially, this example is recommended. Let the American youth, fired with the laudable ambition of excelling in all that is great, virtuous, and amiable, improve the

the early part of their lives in forming their character by this excellent model: Then may we expect to see future Washingtons arise, and stand forth the assertors and guardians of their country's rights; the heroes and patriots of their day; the ornaments of human nature.

But amidst all our care to secure the honor and happiness of our country; while fears of danger distress; or pleasing expectations of prosperity and improvement, public or personal, expand the heart; we are arrested by the direful alarm of death. Like the bellowing thunder from a gloomy cloud; or the volcano's horrid roar from the disrupting earth, it shakes the confidence of mortals:—We hear the deafening sound; our souls shudder at the shock; they start at death's approach, and look down with awe on the vast scenes of eternity opening on their view. "It is appointed unto all men once to die, and after this, the judgment." "What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death?"

He is not bribed by wealth, nor restrained by power; he is blind to the charms of beauty, and deaf to the persuasive powers of eloquence. The sprightly youth and the smiling infant, as well as the man of grey hairs, do feel alike the stroke of his fatal dart.—The great and good, as certainly as the mean and vile, shall fall before him.

Washington, the great, the virtuous, the magnanimous, the brave, the father of his country, is numbered with the dead!——

Anterior, or subsequent to this mournful event, within a few months, several others of the most distinguished patriots, and prime actors in the great contest for American liberty and independ-

ence,

ence, have alſo fallen. Henry, whoſe bold, unconquerable ſpirit, fired with the love of liberty and his country's rights, ſtood forth the firſt to oppoſe the encroachments of uſurping power, in a manner that aſtoniſhed patriots themſelves;—who plead the equal rights of conſcience, and ſucceeded; whoſe irreſiſtable eloquence bore down all oppoſition, and flaſhed conviction on every mind; who, in times the moſt perilous, held with integrity the reins of government in a powerful neighbouring ſtate—Henry, the Demoſthenes of Virginia, the friend, the compatriot of Waſhington, is alſo fallen.—The gallant Mifflin, famed in council and in the field, is numbered with them:—And now,—mournful reflection!—the amiable, the eloquent, the accompliſhed Rutledge, our late, honored governor; an early, tried, and ſteadfaſt patriot; the Tully of Carolina, has likewiſe bid adieu to mortal things.

A few of theſe honored, firſt characters; of theſe virtuous patriots, and citizen-ſoldiers, remain, venerable in years as in virtue;—but they —ourſelves—the whole preſent generation, muſt ſoon—ſoon paſs from time, to an unknown world.

"Nor man alone is mortal; empires die!" —This world itſelf ſhall ſuffer diſſolution—ſhall be wrapped in flames:—And all beyond is vaſt eternity!

Theſe conſiderations ſhould awaken us to the calls of death; eſpecially to that ſolemn call, which this day claims our attention. Death is God's awful meſſenger, ſent on the moſt momentous errand to man.—He breaks the tender ties of relative, ſocial, and political connexion;—reduces our mortal frame to duſt;—diſlodges,

from this clay tabernacle, the immortal ſpirit, and fixes it in an endleſs ſtate of bliſs or woe!

How, as rational, accountable creatures, ſhould we be concerned to meet, in a becoming manner, the unavoidable, grand event,—the change of death? What exertions ſhould we not make, to obtain an intereſt in the juſtifying righteouſneſs, atoning blood, and living interceſſion of the adorable Redeemer, who is the reſurrection and the life; and to be found faithful in his ſervice at the all-important moment, when we are ſummoned away to the world of ſpirits? That then, when we are bidding a long and laſt farewell to mortal things, and our eyes are cloſing in death; we may be comforted with the aſſurances of divine love;—that while we are paſſing through the ſhades of that dark valley, where nature's light is extinguiſhed; the reviving rays of heavenly glory may dawn on our departing ſpirits, and the bright ſcenes of perfect bliſs open to our view.—So ſhall we eſcape the wrath and puniſhment which await the wicked; and enter into the joy of our Lord; into the ſublime, permanent joy of heaven, which no time can waſte, nor created power deſtroy.

This happineſs is reſerved for all the righteous; —of this the departed ſpirits of the juſt already partake.

On this principle, therefore, we found the laſt article of improvement, we have on this occaſion contemplated to make, of that ſolemn event which this day commands our attention. Let us not indulge hopeleſs grief concerning the pious dead.—'Tis the command of revelation; the reaſon is obvious and concluſive. Was our

beloved

beloved Washington numbered among the pious, as well as the wise, the great, the brave?—of which we are furnished with so many pleasing evidences;—And has he died their death?

Then let us cheerfully submit to the afflicting dispensation which has removed him from us; and in the contemplation of his perfect happiness and endless rest, divest our minds of every repining thought; and of every sense of disadvantage we have sustained by his death.

Cease to weep, thou virtuous, honored matron, who hast lost in him, the man who ranked with the best of husbands!—

Be consoled, ye, his adopted children, who shared in him the tenderest father's care!—

Citizens of America! his political children, dry up your tears!—Turn away your eyes from the desolate mansion, where his presence is no longer seen;—turn them from the dreary vault on Potomack's bank, where his mortal part lies mouldering in dust;—view him in the realms of light, united in blest society with saints and patriots, who have finished, like him, the toils of virtue, and now share the vast rewards of grace:—See him holding high converse with the Angels of Light; and, with them, approaching the Divine Presence in humble adoration, perfecting, in high, immortal strains, those grateful acknowledgements of the divine interposition, goodness, and mercy, which he began on earth:—While youth smiles in his face, joy sparkles in his eyes, and his brows are bound, not with a wreath of fading laurel; but with branches of the tree of life, and flowers of Paradise.

If such is the happiness glorified spirits possess;

—and

—and ſuch ideas of it (but far more exalted than we can conceive) are given by the holy religion our patriot profeſſed;—and if in their happineſs he ſhares;—we are not only favored with a rich ſource of conſolation, reſpecting him, and all others of whom we may indulge the chriſtian hope; but are furniſhed with the moſt powerful motives to honor and cleave to that religion, which lays ſo ſolid a foundation for human happineſs:—That we too may purſue a truly virtuous and holy courſe of action; aſpire to the ſublime glories of the heavenly world, and finally ſhare in its bleſſedneſs, when time ſhall be no more.

At this important period, when the ravages of death, and the revolutions of empire are ended; when the trumpet of the Archangel has ceaſed to ſound, and the conflicting elements are gone to wreck, or have aſſumed a new and heavenly form;—when the tranſactions of judgment are paſt, and the everlaſting ſtates of men are by righteous retribution fixed;—when the grand ſchemes of Providence and Grace ſhall have their completion, and be unfolded;—then will the Divine Wiſdom, Righteouſneſs, Goodneſs, and Mercy toward the juſt, even in diſpenſations, which to us are now moſt dark and afflictive, burſt forth, in a flood of light and glory, on our aſtoniſhed and admiring eyes.

With a tranſport of love, gratitude, and joy, we ſhall then unite in the grand chorus of the ſkies, and aſcribe glory, majeſty, and praiſe, "to Him that ſitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever!"——To this aſcription let every creature ſay, AMEN!

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